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By Tom Beaumont

The U.S. House today passed legislation that included a provision introduced by Waterloo Democrat Bruce Braley to allow a payroll tax cut for small businesses that hire previously unemployed workers.

The piece is part of the House Democrats' Populist Caucus' Blueprint for Recovery, a jobs and economy agenda aimed at focusing attention on kitchen table issues. Braley is a founding member of the caucus.

The bill includes Braley's measure to exempt small businesses from paying the employer's share of the Social Security tax for the rest of 2010 if they hire workers who have been unemployed for more than 60 days prior to employment, aides said.

"As we continue to develop policies to strengthen our economy and put America's middle class families back to work, small business development will be one of the keys to our success," Braley, who is running for a third two-year term, said in a press statement.